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EXAMINER

HUFFMAN, JULIAN D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2853

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/910,057

Applicant(s)

KUSUNOKI, KENJI

Examiner

Julian D. Huffman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Upon further review of applicant's claims and the Ueda et al. reference, the finality of the previous rejection is hereby withdrawn. The examiner erred in the interpretation of the claims and had interpreted claims 3 and 4 as referring to the embodiment shown in fig. 5 of applicant's disclosure. However, it appears that claims 3 and 4 refer to the embodiment of fig. 3, while claims 5 and 6 refer to the embodiment of fig. 5. Ueda et al. disclose in fig. 9, structure which is nearly identical to applicant's embodiment shown in fig. 3 and claimed in claims 3 and 4. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under Ueda et al. while claims 5 and 6 remain allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ueda et al.

Ueda et al. disclose a web-fed, multicolor, offset printing press having a series of printing units for printing different color images on a continuous web of paper or like material traveling along a predefined path at a predetermined speed, each printing unit comprising:

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a plate cylinder (fig. 10, element PC) split into a pair of halves for printing a pair of images in juxtaposition transversely of the web, the pair of halves of the plate cylinder being capable of independent displacement both axially and circumferentially of the plate cylinder for registration of the pair of images printed on the web with the other pairs of images printed by the other printing units

(abstract);

a blanket cylinder (BC) in rolling contact with the plate cylinder;

a first pair of helical gears coaxially coupled to opposite ends of the plate cylinder for joint rotation therewith (fig. 9, element 116);

a second pair of helical gears coaxially coupled to opposite ends of the blanket cylinder for joint rotation therewith, the second pair of helical gears being each in mesh with one of the first pair of helical gears for joint rotation of the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions (115);

axial adjustment means for causing axial displacement of each half of the plate cylinder independently of the other half with a view to fine positioning of each of the pair of images transversely of the web (fig. 8, element 101, column 12, lines 17-51);

circumferential adjustment means (fig. 9, element 117) coupled to one of the first pair of helical gears, for causing circumferential displacement of one of the halves of the plate cylinder relative to the other half by causing axial displacement of said one of the first pair of helical gears, which is in sliding engagement with one of the second pair of helical gears, with a view to fine

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positioning of one of the pair of images longitudinally of the web (column 12, line 52-column 13, line);

drive means (fig. 7, element 108) drivingly coupled to either of the first and the second pairs of helical gears for jointly driving the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions at a predetermined speed during printing, and for adjustably varying the rotational speed of the plate cylinder with respect to the predetermined traveling speed of the web with a view to approximate and fine positionings of the pair of images longitudinally of the web, wherein the plate cylinder has a pair of trunnions (114) coaxially coupled on to each half thereof, and wherein the axial adjustment means comprises a pair of axial adjustments coupled one to each half of the plate cylinder of each printing unit, each axial adjustment comprising:

frame means (133);

an axial adjustment motor (131) mounted to the frame means, the axial adjustment motor being capable of bidirectional rotation;

a sleeve (135) coaxially and rotatable mounted to one trunnion of the plate cylinder and constrained to axial displacement therewith and hence with one half of the plate cylinder relative to the frame means, the sleeve being driven for bidirectional rotation from the axial adjustment motor (column 12, lines 46-51);
and

screw thread means acting between the frame means and the sleeve for causing the sleeve to travel axially back and forth with said one plate cylinder half upon bidirectional rotation of the sleeve (137, 138, column 12, lines 26-32);

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wherein the circumferential adjustment means comprises:

a frame means (133);

a circumferential adjustment motor mounted to the frame means (142), the circumferential adjustment motor being capable of bidirectional rotation;

a first annular gear nonrotatably mounted to one trunnion of the plate cylinder (118);

a second annular gear concentrically surrounding the first annular gear and engaged therewith for joint rotation while being free to travel axially relative to the same, one of the first pair of helical gears being concentrically and nonrotatably mounted to the second annular gear (117);

a sleeve coaxially and rotatably mounted to the second annular gear and constrained to axial displacement therewith and hence with one of the first pair of helical gears, the sleeve being driven for bidirectional rotation from the circumferential adjustment motor (145); and

screw thread means (148) acting between the frame means and the sleeve for causing the sleeve to travel axially back and forth with the second annular gear, and hence with said one of the first pair of helical gears, upon bidirectional rotation of the sleeve, said one helical gear on axial displacement being displaced circumferentially with one half of the plate cylinder by virtue of its engagement with one of the second pair of helical gears on the opposite ends of the blanket cylinder (column 13, lines 1-20).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 5 and 6 are allowed.

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The prior art of record does not disclose a threaded rod extending through the first sleeve.

Conclusion


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian D. Huffman whose telephone number is (703) 308-6556. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow, can be reached at (703) 308-3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722. Faxes requiring the immediate attention of the examiner may be sent directly to the examiner at (703) 746-4386. Note that this number will not automatically send a confirmation that the fax was received.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



JH



JUDY NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

8 April 2003